What is claimed is:

1. A method related to discount coupons, comprising:

providing at least a first conventional discount coupon that includes product information related to a first product;

inputting said first conventional discount coupon to an apparatus used in outputting at least one exchange coupon;

controlling whether an exchange coupon should be outputted by said apparatus in exchange for said inputted first conventional discount coupon; and

outputting at least a first exchange coupon that includes product information related to a second product, different from said first product.

2. A method, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:

said inputting step includes receiving identification information to be associated with said first exchange coupon.

3. A method, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:

said controlling step includes determining whether said first conventional discount coupon is an exchange coupon.

4. A method, as claimed in Claim 3, wherein:

said controlling step includes not generating any exchange coupon.

5. A method, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:

said controlling step includes rendering said first conventional discount coupon unredeemable.

6.   A method, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:

said controlling step includes checking whether magnetic ink is provided on any item inputted to said apparatus.

7.   A method, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:

said controlling step includes obtaining in a predetermined manner information associated with a plurality of products.

7̶8̶.   A method, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:

said controlling step includes printing said second product information on said first exchange coupon.

9.   A method, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:

said controlling step includes printing said second product information on said first exchange coupon with said second product information being unrelated to said first

5   product information on said first conventional discount coupon.

10.   A method, as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising:

redeeming said first exchange coupon and obtaining cash for said first exchange coupon.

11.   A method, as claimed in Claim 10, wherein:

said obtaining step includes printing a check including an amount corresponding to a discount associated with said first exchange coupon.

12. A method for redeeming coupons, comprising:

providing a first coupon having first product information;

inputting said first coupon to a check writer device;

5   reading said first product information using said check writer device;

determining whether a check for a predetermined amount should be written using said inputted first coupon; and

printing a check for an amount based on said first

10   product information.

13. A method, as claimed in Claim 12, wherein:

said reading step includes scanning a bar code contained on said first coupon.

14. A method, as claimed in Claim 12, wherein:

said determining step includes checking whether said first coupon is expired.

15. A method, as claimed in Claim 12, wherein:

said determining step includes comparing said first product information with stored information related to predetermined products.

16. A method, as claimed in Claim 15, further including:

inhibiting said printing step when a lack of comparison is present between said first product information and said stored information.

17. A method, as claimed in Claim 13, wherein:

said determining step includes keeping track of an amount when said comparing step results in a correspondence between said first product information and said stored information.

18. A method, as claimed in Claim 12, wherein:

said inputting step includes providing a second coupon having second product information before said printing step.

19. A method, as claimed in Claim 18, wherein:

said determining step includes checking for completion of a transaction related to said first and second coupons.

20. A method, as claimed in Claim 19, wherein:

said printing step includes producing a check for a total amount using said first and second product information.

21. A method, as claimed in Claim 12, further comprising:

rendering said first coupon unacceptable for further redemption.

22. A system for generating and redeeming coupons, comprising:

first means for receiving a conventional discount coupon;

second means responsive to said first means for

5 generating a first exchange coupon having first product

information;

third means for reading said first product information

from said first exchange coupon; and

fourth means responsive to said third means for

10 generating an amount based on said first exchange coupon

product information.

23. A system, as claimed in Claim 22, wherein:

said first means includes means for determining whether

an exchange coupon is being inputted.

24. A system, as claimed in Claim 22, wherein:

said first means includes means for rendering said

conventional discount coupon unredeemable.

25. A system, as claimed in Claim 22, wherein:

said first means includes means for checking for a type

of ink.

26. A system, as claimed in Claim 22, wherein:

said first means includes slot means of a size for

receiving substantially any one of different sizes of

conventional discount coupons.

27. A system, as claimed in Claim 22, wherein:

said first means includes means for reading product related information from said conventional discount coupon.

28. A system, as claimed in Claim 22, wherein:

said second means includes memory means for storing a plurality of information related to a number of different products, with one of said plurality of information being

5 selectable for generating an exchange coupon.

29. A system, as claimed in Claim 28, wherein:

said second means includes computer means for selecting product information in a predetermined manner.

30. A system, as claimed in Claim 29, wherein:

said second means includes modem means for use in providing communication between said computer means and product information source means for updating said memory

5 means.

31. A system, as claimed in Claim 22, wherein:

said fourth means includes means for reading said first product information associated with said first exchange coupon.

32. A system, as claimed in Claim 22, wherein:

said fourth means includes means for comparing said first product information associated with said first exchange coupon with stored information to determine whether to generate said

5 amount.

33. A system, as claimed in Claim 22, wherein:

said fourth means includes means for printing a check that includes said amount.

34. A system, as claimed in Claim 22, wherein:

said fourth means includes means for rendering said first exchange coupon unacceptable for further redemption.

35. A system, as claimed in Claim 22, wherein:

said first product information of said first exchange coupon includes at least one of the following: a location of said first product in a store having said first product, an expiration date associated with redemption of said first exchange coupon, and sweepstakes information.

36. A system, as claimed in Claim 33, wherein:

said means for printing prints a second check using random generator means.

37. A system, as claimed in Claim 22, wherein:

said fourth means includes means for receiving identification information associated with said first exchange coupon for storing said identification information in association with said first product information.

38. An apparatus for redeeming a discount coupon comprising:

input means for receiving a first discount coupon having first product information;

5   scanning means for reading said first product information on said first discount coupon;

comparing means responsive to said first product information for determining whether an amount should be generated; and

10   printing means responsive to said comparing means for providing a check in an amount based on said first product information.

39. An apparatus, as claimed in Claim 38, wherein:

said printing means includes a check on which information is printed including said amount and in which the payor of said check amount is different from the seller of said first

5   product.

40. An apparatus, as claimed in Claim 38, wherein:

said printing means includes means for positioning a check to be printed.

41. An apparatus, as claimed in Claim 38, further including:

means for rendering said first discount coupon unacceptable for further redemption.